

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2002

### **HINCHEY INTRODUCES BILL TO FUND REVOLUTIONARY WAR COMMEMORATION**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) this week introduced a bill that would establish a national program to properly commemorate the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution. The bill authorizes \$500,000 a year for this purpose through fiscal year 2008.

"The American Revolution was an event of global significance that has had a profound and lasting effect upon government, laws, culture, society, and values," said Hinchey. "The years 2000 through 2008 mark the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Revolutionary War and present us with an opportunity to help the American public remember the values our forebears cherished and the sacrifices they made for freedom from tyranny. Every generation of American citizens should have an opportunity to understand and appreciate the continuing legacy of the American Revolution."

The National Park Service (NPS) administers battlefields, historical parks, and programs related to the Revolutionary War. However, due to a lack of resources, NPS faces many challenges administering these sites and programs.

In establishing a national program and authorizing the necessary resources, Hinchey's legislation would allow NPS to improve their stewardship of Revolutionary War sites and treasures through improved interpretation, education, outreach and protection. Specifically, the bill would allow NPS to link historic structures and sites, routes, activities, community projects, exhibits and multimedia materials; improve and update educational programs and connections with local and regional educators; and expand the research base for Revolutionary War interpretation and education by seeking out and enhancing partnerships with scholars and educators.

Among the NPS sites Hinchey's legislation seeks to help is the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA). The purpose of the Heritage Area, which was established by legislation introduced by Hinchey and passed into law in 1996, is to recognize the nationally significant history and resources of the Hudson Valley and to assist in preserving and interpreting those resources. The region's role in the American Revolution is one of the primary focuses of the Heritage Area. Hinchey has secured over \$3 million for the HRVNHA in the last four budget cycles.